

FWP R2 CAC Meeting

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 7, 2012
LOCATION: FWP Region 2 Headquarters, Missoula
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Members: Tim Aldrich, Jane Bennett, Louie Bouma, Connie Buresh, Todd Frank, Dudley Improta, Charlie Johnson, Denley Loge, John (Tracy) Manley, Jim Olson, Jack Reneau, Carey Schmidt, Dennis Schutz, Theresa Mondale

Staff: Vivaca Crowser, Pat Saffel, Joe Jaquith, Ginny Schmautz, Mike Thompson

Introductions: We just completed our annual CAC recruitment process. New & reappointed CAC members include: Todd Frank, Theresa Mondale, Jim Olson, Charlie Johnson & Tracy Manley.

Fisheries Topics -Pat Saffel

Based on the topics brought forward from our CAC members, we'll be talking about the following tonight:

- **Changes in fisheries in the region, particularly Rock Creek:**
 Saffel discussed the changes in trout species composition and fish size, reasons behind the changes and how this affects angler opportunity and management direction.
- **Native & Non-Native Fish Management:**
 Discussed followed on several issues including lake trout in Flathead & northern pike in the Bitterroot.
- **Drought:**
 CAC members initiated a discussion about current water conditions and predictions for this season. Pat summarized the issues that the region has seen this season related to drought, and characterized them as fairly average with little impact to the resource. One recent event was some dead trout reported in the west fork of the Bitterroot due to spill over from Painted Rocks Reservoir, which raised water temperatures slightly. Efforts will now focus on release of water from deeper in the reservoir where water temperatures are cooler.

River Recreation Topics-Chet Crowser

Chet presented an update on the river recreation and Fishing Access Site program direction. He provided an overview of river use in the region and what's been done to address and discuss issues to-date, management tools that have or could be used and the process for making new management decisions.

The group then discussed the following topics in more depth:

- **Citizen Day model for rivers**
 - Discussed some CAC member concerns with increasing non-resident and outfitter use of some stretches of R2 rivers and interest in coming up with a solution (such as citizen days). Summarized the citizen day approach, pros and cons, and what it would take to propose using this model in R2.
- **Public access potentials at the mouth of Rock Creek**
 - Carey Schmidt updated the group that Five Valley's Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, and Clark Fork Coalition are involved in a potential purchase & management of land at the mouth of Rock Creek. Carey is hoping that CAC members and others will input with ideas on the way that this piece of property should be managed for public access. Contact Carey for more details.

Other topics & themes that CAC members brought up in discussion:

- Fishing Access Sites should be managed for different types of desired conditions (not every site needs a boat ramp, for example).
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) outreach & check stations: Some stations seem to have not been equitably checking every boat, CAC member concern over this; more outreach is needed on this topic as we move forward; could MT sell stickers for AIS boat checks like Idaho and some other states do?

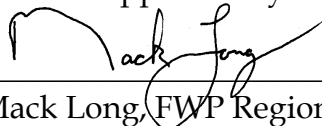
Next steps & follow-up:

There was a lot of CAC member interest in working more in-depth on some of the river management topics discussed at tonight's meeting. Pat & Chet will follow-up to discuss ways that the CAC could be involved in the efforts. These efforts are not limited to, but might include surveying the public to assess satisfaction levels with current river use and management options. A sub-group of the CAC could help brainstorm what the survey would cover in more detail. Another follow-up that could involve a CAC sub-group would be initiating more efforts to monitor river use levels. Chet & Pat will pursue and the CAC as a whole, or a sub-group, may convene between now and the regularly scheduled December meeting to discuss these topics and more related to river recreation.

Next meeting

Tuesday, Dec 4, 6 pm, at the FWP R2 Office

Minutes approved by:


Mack Long, FWP Regional Supervisor

9/14/12

Date